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FOR ACTION

RECOMMENDATION FOR FUNDING FROM GENERAL RESOURCES
FOR SHORT-DURATION COUNTRY PROGRAMME SUPPORT TO
THE COUNTRIES OF FORMER YUGOSLAVIA*

SUMMARY

The present document contains a recommendation for funding from general resources for programme development and staffing costs of programme support from an area office to the countries of former Yugoslavia. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the following amount in general resources, subject to the availability of country funds.

<u>Programme support</u>	<u>Amount</u> (United States dollars)	<u>Duration</u>
<u>General resources</u>		
Programme development and staffing costs for an area office	2 000 000	1994-1995

A summary of the recommendation follows.

* In order to meet documentation deadlines, the present document was prepared before aggregate financial data were finalized. Final adjustments, taking into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 1993, will be contained in the "Summary of 1994 recommendations for general resources and supplementary funding programmes" (E/ICEF/1994/P/L.3 and Add.1).

Challenges presented by the region

1. The transition from federalism to independence for the five countries of former Yugoslavia, and the resulting conflict that developed, has created the biggest humanitarian crisis in post-war Europe. It is estimated that over 200,000 people have been killed and another 3.5 million have been made refugees or displaced. Economic disruption, war and the collapse of social infrastructures have forced the countries to adapt to drastic reductions in living standards. This has been compounded by a de-federalized public sector greatly reduced in efficiency and effectiveness.
2. The impact of war on the children has been devastating. Children are deprived of basic health care, nutrition, education and other social services, with Governments unable to meet such needs. In many cases, social service infrastructures, already performing far below optimum, simply cannot cope with the additional burden created by the influx of refugees and displaced persons.
3. UNICEF has been working to help alleviate the sufferings of children in former Yugoslavia and to ensure that the impact of war on their long-term development is minimized. Its assistance has been mainly concentrated in the areas of health, nutrition, basic education, water supply and sanitation, psycho-social rehabilitation for war-traumatized children and meeting urgent domestic needs. The delivery of such assistance has been seriously hampered by the continuous hostilities but, where contact and cooperation with the government counterparts have been established, concrete steps for the rehabilitation and care of children and women have been initiated, in addition to measures to address emergency problems.
4. The prompt response of UNICEF to the requests of various Governments for emergency assistance since the beginning of the conflict has helped to establish the credibility of UNICEF, among the different authorities concerned, as an organization committed to the cause of the children. In many cases, assistance delivered directly to the field, in collaboration with local authorities and non-governmental organizations, has laid the foundations for medium-term and long-term cooperation for the survival, development and protection of children, moving from an emergency response towards a development continuum. Opportunities to develop partnerships with other international, governmental and non-governmental organizations have also helped to bring about multisectoral responses to the needs of the children.
5. Following the outbreak of hostilities in former Yugoslavia, UNICEF established offices in the different countries to respond to the emergency needs of children. Offices were first established at Zagreb and Belgrade, then at Sarajevo and Split. Later, offices were added at Skopje, Mostar, Pale, Tuzla, Zenica and Podgorica. In November 1992, UNICEF established an area office, under the responsibility of a special representative. The area office consists of 8 international and 20 national staff members, who are responsible for the overall management of all sub-offices and project offices. The office also undertakes programme planning and monitoring, financial management, operational support, external relations and broad coordination with United Nations, international and non-governmental organizations. Special advisers for health, education and psycho-social programmes based in the area office are responsible

for programme policy formulation, planning, monitoring and evaluation of projects throughout the countries of former Yugoslavia. The area advisers also provide technical support to the sub-offices in the various programme areas.

6. The continuing hostilities in many parts of former Yugoslavia and the widespread damage to infrastructure and social services warrant the continuation of the emergency response until the minimum basic services for children and women are restored. Within this emergency response, there are opportunities to help the countries in formulating plans that will strengthen the restoration of basic service delivery and maintenance of capacity. There are also opportunities for advocacy, for adherence to the principle of a "first call for children" and for the goals expressed in the Declaration adopted at the World Summit for Children, among them the mid-decade goals. The role of the area office in this process is considered vital in all these activities.

Recommended programme cooperation, 1994-1995

Estimated annual expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>General resources</u>			
Project support	750	800	1 550
Project development	<u>150</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>450</u>
Total	<u>900</u>	<u>1 100</u>	<u>2 000</u>

Major responsibilities of the area office

Support to programme planning and policies

7. As a result of both war and the transition to more market-oriented economies, the countries of former Yugoslavia need to review their social service sectors and policies in those sectors that have implications for the well-being of children. UNICEF will work closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other international organizations in supporting the countries of former Yugoslavia with training in the more efficient use of resources and in the development of appropriate policies in health, education and other sectors. The technical advisers in the area office will support seminars organized for planners and policy makers in their respective fields, drawing on experiences in other central and eastern European countries, as well as in the developing world. In the health sector, such support will cover revision of vaccination calendars, formulation of national drug policy and the rational use of drugs, strengthening preventive medicine and technical assistance in health financing. In nutrition, UNICEF will support policy interventions to promote breast-feeding, as well as the baby-friendly hospital initiative. UNICEF, together with WHO, will also help the Governments to

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establish policies for appropriate child-feeding practices, particularly in emergency situations. In the education sector, support will be provided to reform the education policies that affect access to and the quality of education. Psycho-social interventions and interventions for institutionalized children will promote policies conducive to strengthening capacities for helping child victims of war and other children in especially difficult circumstances.

8. One critical role of the area advisers will be to continue to provide technical support and coordination to the country offices, including the training and guidance of national staff. The office will also support the country offices in the monitoring of key indicators that show the impact of the situation on children, women and other vulnerable groups during this critical period.

Coordination

9. The area office will be responsible for coordination with sub-offices and project offices on the one hand, and with UNICEF headquarters on the other, to ensure compliance with UNICEF policies and procedures, reporting obligations and contact with the donors. Where policy issues are concerned, coordination with other United Nations, international and major non-governmental organizations will also be handled by the area office.

Information and media

10. The information unit in the area office will implement information strategies designed to enhance the visibility of UNICEF work in the countries of former Yugoslavia. This will include production of both electronic and print materials such as films, video spots, reports, brochures, etc., for wide dissemination by UNICEF offices in New York and Geneva, as well as by National Committees for UNICEF. Special orientation visits will be organized for media personnel, National Committee members and representatives of donor countries, as well as field visits to UNICEF-assisted projects.

Advocacy

11. The area office will undertake special advocacy efforts to ensure that all the countries of former Yugoslavia ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Advocacy will also be undertaken for the formulation of national programmes of action within the framework of the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the World Summit for Children.

Management and operational support

12. The area office will extend support to the field offices in financial management, staff management, administrative and supply/logistics matters. Currently over 108 international and national staff are deployed in 10 UNICEF offices in former Yugoslavia. The area office will ensure compliance with standard personnel, administrative and security-related policies by all these offices.
